Sub. E'

1. (Three Times Amended) An image retrieval information storing apparatus, comprising:

a frame feature value generating unit for generating a frame feature value which is numerical information representing quantity of a feature contained in a frame of image data,

wherein said frame feature value is calculated by image data including associated data for transporting, storing or coding the image, and is not a component of said image data; and

a frame feature value storing unit for storing said frame feature value with corresponding information of said frame feature value to a frame of said image data, the frame feature value storing unit being connected to said frame feature value generating unit.

Sub D'

15. (Three Times Amended) An image retrieving apparatus, comprising:

an index information generating unit for receiving a frame feature value which is numerical information representing quantity of a feature contained in a frame of image data, for determining a featured frame among said image data based on said frame feature value in accordance with a request for extracting a featured frame, and for generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame,

wherein said frame feature value is calculated by image data including associated data for transporting, storing or coding the image, and is not a component of said image data; and

a image retrieval executing unit connected to said index information generating unit, for transmitting said request for extracting said featured frame to said index information

generating unit, for receiving said index information from said index information generating unit, for receiving said image data from an external source, and for outputting a frame specified based on said index information,

wherein said index information is adaptively changed by changing a setting of a threshold value during the process of retrieval.

17. (Amended) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 16, wherein

said index information generating unit includes

a frame determining unit receiving said frame feature value and said request for extracting a featured frame, comparing said frame feature value and the threshold value in accordance with said request for extracting a featured frame, and determining said featured frame, and

an index generating unit connected to said frame determining unit and generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame.

18. (Amended) The image retrieving apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said index information generating unit includes

a frame determining unit receiving said frame feature value and said request for extracting a featured frame, comparing said frame feature value and the threshold value in accordance with said request for extracting a featured frame, and determining said featured frame, and

an index generating unit connected to said frame determining unit and generating index information which is positional information of said featured frame.

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29. (Amended) An image retrieval information storing apparatus, comprising:

a coding information reading unit for reading motion vector information from coded image data;

a frame feature value generating unit, connected to said coding information reading unit, for calculating statistics of motion vectors of said coded image data based on said motion vector information, and for generating a motion vector frame feature value which is numerical information representing quantity of a feature contained in a frame of said coded image data and which is calculated by said statistics of motion vectors; and

a frame feature value storing unit, connected to said frame feature value generating unit, for storing said motion vector frame feature value with corresponding information of said frame feature value to a frame of said coded image data.

31. (Amended) An image retrieval information storing apparatus comprising:

a coding information reading unit for reading prediction mode information from coded image data;

a frame feature value generating unit, connected to said coding information reading unit, for counting a number of blocks coded in accordance with respective prediction methods for a frame, and for outputting a prediction mode frame feature value which is numerical information representing quantity of a feature contained in a frame of said coded image data and which is calculated by said number of blocks coded in accordance with respective prediction methods; and

a frame feature value storing unit, connected to said

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frame feature value generating unit, for storing said prediction
mode frame feature value with corresponding information of said
frame feature value to a frame of said coded image data.